

Cojedes State, Venezuela GYTS 2000, includes data on prevalence of cigarette and other tobacco use as well as information on five determinants of tobacco use: access/availability and price, environmental tobacco smoke exposure (ETS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Cojedes State could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Cojedes State, Venezuela GYTS was a school-based survey of students in grades 6-9 conducted in 2000.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Cojedes State school system. At the first stage, schools were selected with probability proportional to enrollment size. At the second stage, classes were randomly selected and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate. The school response rate was 82.5%, the student response rate was 91.3%, and the overall response rate was 75.4%. A total of 2068 students participated in the Cojedes State, Venezuela GYTS 2000.

Prevalence

13 out of each 100 students (13.4%) had ever smoked cigarettes
14 out of each 100 students (14.1%) currently use any tobacco product
5 out of each 100 students (4.8%) currently smoke cigarettes
11 out of each 100 students (11.0%) currently use other tobacco products
11 out of each 100 students (11.0%) of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year

Knowledge and Attitudes

55 out of each 100 students (55.2%) think smoke from others is harmful to them
13 out of each 100 students (12.6%) think boys who smoke have more friends
12 out of each 100 students (11.5%) think girls who smoke have more friends
8 out of each 100 students (7.9%) think boys who smoke look more attractive
6 out of each 100 students (6.3%) think girls who smoke look more attractive

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

43 out of each 100 students (43.0%) usually smoke at home
26 out of each 100 students (25.5%) buy cigarettes in a store
85 out of each 100 students (85.4%) who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Environmental Tobacco Smoke

37 out of each 100 students (36.5%) live in homes where others smoke
39 out of each 100 students (39.1%) are around others who smoke in places outside their home
82 out of each 100 students (81.6%) think smoking should be banned from public places
39 out of each 100 students (38.8%) have one or more parents who smoke
8 out of each 100 students (7.9%) have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

56 out of each 100 students (56.2%) want to stop smoking
62 out of each 100 students (62.1%) tried to stop smoking during the past year
65 out of each 100 students (64.5%) have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

45 out of each 100 students (45.4%) saw a lot of anti-smoking media messages
42 out of each 100 students (42.0%) saw a lot of pro-cigarette media messages
11 out of each 100 students (11.2%) have an object with a cigarette brand logo
7 out of each 100 students (7.4%) were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

49 out of each 100 students (48.9%) had been taught about the dangers of smoking in class during the past year
27 out of each 100 students (27.2%) had discussed reasons why people their age smoke in class during the past year
50 out of each 100 students (50.3%) had been taught the effects of tobacco use in class

Highlights

- Smokeless tobacco use (chimo) doubles the cigarette smoking use.
- Almost 6 in 10 smokers want to stop.
- ETS exposure is high.
- 4 in 10 students saw anti-smoking media messages; 4 in 10 saw pro-cigarette smoking media messages.

Recommendations

- Enforce of legislation banning smoking and chimo use in public places is needed.
- A youth cessation program is needed.
- Effective tobacco use prevention curricula need to be accessible to more students.

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